

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

January 10, 2002

Maricopa Association of Governments Office  
302 North First Avenue, Suite 200, Saguaro Room  
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Wickenburg: Fred Carpenter, Chair	Guadalupe, Mark Johnson
Phoenix: Jack Tevlin, Vice-Chair	*Litchfield Park: Mike Cartsonis
ADOT: Dan Lance	Maricopa County: Thomas Buick
Avondale: Dave Fitzhugh	Mesa: Jeff Martin for Ron Krosting
*Buckeye: Joe Blanton	Paradise Valley: Robert M. Cicarelli
Chandler: Patrice Kraus	Peoria: David Moody
Fountain Hills: Randy Harrell	RPTA: Ken Driggs
*Gila Bend: Shane Dille	Scottsdale: Michelle Korf
Gilbert: Tami Ryall	*Surprise: Miryam Gutier
Glendale: Jim Book	Tempe: Mary O'Connor
Goodyear: Grant Anderson	

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

Regional Bicycle Task Force: Pat	Pedestrian Working Group: Reed Kempton,
McDermott, Chandler	Maricopa County Dept of Transportation
*Street Committee: Don Herp, Phoenix	*Telecommunications Advisory Group:
ITS Committee: Jim Book	Jim Hull

\* Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Eric Anderson, MAG	Dennis Smith, MAG
Paul Ward, MAG	David Felix, Arizona DPS
Kwi-Sung Kang, ADOT	T.W. Conner, Arizona DPS
Rita Walton, MAG	Curt Knight, Arizona DPS
Bob Antila, RPTA	Lindy Bauer, MAG
Peggy Carpenter, City of Scottsdale	Bill Hayden, ADOT
Dean Giles, MAG	Bryan Jungwirth, RPTA
Marc Pearsall, RPTA	Jim Creedon, Landrey and Associates
Chris Plumb, MCDOT	Shannon Wilhelmsen, City of Tempe
Stephan Tate, MAG	Robert Ward, City of Phoenix Police Dept.
Dennis Mittelstedt, FHWA	Chuck Eaton, ADOT
Lynn Timmons, City of Phoenix	Tim Wolfe, ADOT
Ali Makarachi, City of Phoenix	Ken Hall, MAG

1. Call to Order

Mr. Fred Carpenter, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

2. Call to the Audience

Chairman Carpenter noted that he had not received any request-to-speak cards from the audience, and moved to the next item on the Agenda.

3. Recommendation of Projects for CMAQ Funding in FY 2007 of the FY 2003-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

Chairman Carpenter introduced Mr. Paul Ward, MAG Transportation Program Manager, who provided an overview on the recommendation of projects for MAG federal funding in FY 2007 of the FY 2003 to 2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Ward called the Committee's attention to Attachment One, located at the back of the Agenda packet. Mr. Ward informed the Committee that about \$41.6 million would be available for projects in FY 2007. Of this amount, Mr. Ward stated that \$38.6 million would consist of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funding, and the remaining \$3.0 million would consist of Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding.

Mr. Ward provided a brief overview of the original recommendation as presented at the December 11, 2001, Transportation Review Committee (TRC) meeting. Mr. Ward stated two alternative scenarios have been prepared for consideration. Mr. Ward stated that as presented within the tables included as Attachment One, scenario Number One involves the deletion of 7 projects, the reduction of funding for 6 projects, and the addition of 4 new projects; whereas, scenario Number Two involves the deletion of 8 projects, the reduction of funding for 7 projects, and the addition of 4 new projects. Mr. Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Manager, informed the Committee that as part of scenario Number One, three MAG regionally-sponsored projects were eliminated, and that there was a \$400,000 reduction in the MAG Elderly mobility project. Mr. Anderson then addressed project differences between the two scenarios.

Mr. Dan Lance addressed the \$1.35 million Low Volume Dirt Road Paving project, and wanted to know how MAG intended to distribute the funds. Mr. Eric Anderson stated that MAG would initiate a secondary application process for the money. Open discussion then followed regarding the two alternative MAG-recommended scenarios. Mr. Grant Anderson commended MAG Staff for their work and believed that the two scenarios were somewhat identical, and was pleased to hear that MAG would be implementing a secondary application process for the distribution of funding for the Low Volume Dirt Road Paving project.

Mr. Dan Lance then addressed the \$1.6 million ITS funding request for the installation of mobile data terminals in DPS vehicles, which would assist in improving freeway response time to emergency situations on the regional freeway system. Mr. Lance informed the Committee that if appropriate, representatives from DPS were present to address the Committee on the proposed project. Chairman Carpenter stated that it would be appropriate for the Committee to hear such a presentation. Mr. Jeff Martin then addressed Mr. Carpenter and the Committee and stated that he is in support of what MAG Staff has accomplished in developing the two scenarios, and understood it was a difficult process. Mr. Martin stated that he was not very supportive of the DPS request of \$1.6 million, since the legislature has diverted funds from ADOT to the DPS. Chairman Carpenter then called for DPS to present the proposed ITS project to the Committee.

Lt. Colonel David Felix from DPS addressed the Committee and provided an overview of the ITS project. He informed the Committee that he understood Mr. Martin's concerns, but emphasized that he has little input on how the legislature actually allocates dollars on an annual basis, especially with regard to communications. He said that the project would assist in reducing officer and emergency response time to highway congestion blockages that occur due to vehicle failure and accidents on the system. Lt. Colonel Felix stated that he felt the project should be funded, primarily because DPS plays a major role in the overall efficiency of the regional freeway system. He then highlighted several components of the project, and stated that the ITS project, if funded, would represent a significant enhancement over what DPS already has in place. This concluded the presentation by Lt. Felix and discussion followed. Ms. Patrice Kraus said that although she doesn't necessarily object to the project, she concurred with Mr. Martin's statements regarding the limited nature of funds available to the region and the diversion of funds to DPS. Ms. Kraus stated that a considerable amount of HURF funds were already allocated to DPS, and that the funding of this project would represent further reductions to the MAG Region's ability to fund needed projects. Mr. Lance addressed the Committee, and informed those in attendance that the proposed ITS project would not only benefit DPS, but would also assist ADOT in traffic control and incident reduction. Mr. Lance wanted to go on record as considering this request to be very viable to the region. Discussion followed, and Chairman Carpenter thanked Lt. Colonel David Felix for taking the time to address the Committee.

Mr. David Fitzhugh then addressed the Committee, and stated that the City of Avondale was disappointed over the recommendation not to fund the community's project in FY 2007. He informed the Committee that the City of Avondale currently has a number of CMAQ projects in various stages of development, and requested assistance to help accelerate Avondale's projects in an effort to have them completed in a more timely manner. Discussion followed, and several members of the Committee voiced concern over the way in which the project selection process was conducted. Mr. Dan Lance informed the Committee that he had distributed a letter before the start

of the meeting regarding the CMAQ project selection process, which offered several suggestions to strengthen the selection process.

Mr. Jeff Martin moved that the Committee approve scenario Number Two with the understanding that changes would be made to the selection process during the upcoming year. Mr. Thomas Buick seconded. Mr. Dave Moody recommended that the motion include an amendment to accelerate the City of Avondale's projects, as requested by Mr. Fitzhugh. Discussion followed, and Mr. Jeff Martin said that it may not be appropriate to single out one community in particular. He stated that many communities had projects that were eliminated or reduced, and that the City of Mesa will lose approximately \$3.0 million as part of the process. Chairman Carpenter stated that it would not be appropriate to discuss the concept of accelerating projects at this time, and said that a special ad hoc committee would be appointed to review these issues in the near future. Chairman Carpenter called for a vote, and the motion was approved by unanimous voice vote of the Committee. There was no further discussion.

4. Discussion of RPTA Transit Program Project Priorities for FY 2007 Federal Funds

Addressing the next order of business, Chairman Carpenter introduced Mr. Bob Antila from RPTA, who addressed the Committee on transit priority projects for FY 2007. Mr. Antila called the Committee's attention to the tables in Attachment Number Two, located at the back of the Agenda packet. He provided an overview of proposed projects by categorical sources related to 5309 Fixed Guideway Formula funds; CMAQ funds; Transit STP funds; and 5307 Formula funds. Mr. Antila stated that the total amount for the proposed FY 2007 Transit Program was approximately \$48.5 million.

Mr. Antila informed the Committee that the recommended projects as presented were compiled and approved by the Valley Metro Operations Staff (VMOS). Mr. Antila informed the Committee that the VMOS followed the 1993 *Transit Capital Project Prioritization Guidelines* for selecting and prioritizing the projects. He said that the VMOS focused on the highest priority needs throughout the region, and that the process also allowed for numerous opportunities by professional staff and others to comment and provide insight.

Mr. Jeff Martin questioned whether the VMOS project selection process was conducted as an open, public meeting. Mr. Martin stated that he did not believe that the VMOS had consensus, nor did they take a final vote on the projects at their last meeting. Discussion followed, and Ms. Mary O'Connor moved to approve the RPTA Transit Program project list as presented. Mr. Jim Book seconded. Mr. Martin addressed the Committee and asked them to table the motion. He questioned how a committee could divide a total of \$48.0 million without any public input. Mr. Martin suggested that if the public knew \$48.0 million in transit projects were going to be discussed and distributed, that many people would have welcomed the opportunity to attend the VMOS meetings, and that the VMOS process should be open. Chairman Carpenter

asked for a motion to table Agenda Item #2. Mr. Jeff Martin moved to table Agenda Item #2. Ms. Patrice Kraus seconded. Chairman Carpenter called for a voice vote of the Committee. Of the 17 members in attendance, there were a total of 2 ayes and 15 nays. The motion to table Agenda Item #2 did not pass.

Discussion followed, and Ms. Patrice Kraus stated that it is very important to look at the VMOS process and the way that the \$48.0 million was allocated. She said that this was the public's money, and that the proper allocation of these funds is a tremendous responsibility. Ms. Kraus recommended a better process in the future that is open to the public. Discussion followed and Mr. Ken Driggs addressed issues related to regional bus maintenance facilities. Mr. Driggs concurred with Mr. Martin that in the future, the VMOS project selection process would follow a format that allows for more public input and commentary during the process of project selection. Chairman Carpenter called for a vote of the Committee to approve the RPTA Transit Program Project Priorities for FY 2007. The motion was approved by voice vote of the Committee, with Mr. Jeff Martin and Ms. Patrice Kraus opposing. There was no further discussion.

5. Next Meeting Date

Chairman Carpenter informed members in attendance that the next meeting of the Committee would be conducted on January 29, 2002. There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:03 p.m.